

IT'S SENATOR PEPPER!

The Farmer Editor Will Succeed John J. Ingalls in the U. S. Senate.

The Kansas legislature on Wednesday last elected William A. Pepper to succeed John J. Ingalls. Pepper is about 60 years of age, and at the time of the organization of the Republican party united with them, and remained in the ranks of that party until about two years ago, when he united with the Alliance, and is now editor of the Farmer's Alliance, the leading Alliance journal of Kansas.

He served throughout the war as a member of the 8th Illinois Infantry, and on being mustered out, practiced law at Clarksville, Tennessee, from 1865 to 1870. He then removed to Wilson county, Kansas, pursuing his profession. His experience as a farmer consisted of his working on the farm when a boy, in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. He is a high protectionist, and in no sense a farmer—He is a lawyer.

Business At Jefferson City.

Now that committees have been appointed, business should commence at Jefferson City without delay. Introducing bills is not business by any means, though, of course, it is making the transaction of business possible. At the same time too much introducing is liable to result in too little legislation, and it is quite true to say a little is better than no legislation at all.

No man is sanguine enough to imagine that all the bills already introduced can be passed this session; indeed, the prospect of any such achievement would be absolutely appalling. Some of the measures are so violent in tone and policy that not even their nominal sponsors would like to see them pass, and others are mere vain repetitions and useless duplications.

For all that the number of very excellent bills before the Legislature, and it would be a thousands pities to have the passage of any one of these jeopardized by bogus measures. It is pleasant to explain to advanced thinkers that their bill was introduced but crowded to the wall owing to pressure of business and shortness of time, and it is a pardonable perversion even when the introducer offered up a prayer for the bill's speedy death.

But this electioneering prevents business, and it is the duty of the Legislature to get down to solid work at once. We are inclined to the belief that it will do so.

The Weather.

Our mild and agreeable weather, thus far this winter, has been the subject of almost universal note. Not only have been fortunate in this particular, but our neighbors in the northern part of the country have enjoyed the mildest winter known for years. In southern Europe and Northern Africa the direct antithesis condition of the weather is reported. These tropical regions usually abounding in balmy air and sunny breezes are now having the most severe winter known for generations. The river Tagus, in Portugal, and Ebro, in Spain, are frozen over, the first ice at these places in sixty years. Heavy snow storms prevail throughout Spain, and the distress in the Malaga district is great. In Switzerland the extreme cold weather is beyond comparison to the heaviest in the history of the country. Naples and Rome, from whence emanate the "dago" and his banana cart, are snowed in and traffic practically suspended. Across the Mediterranean sea in Algeria and Northern Africa, and nearer the equator, the condition is still worse. The inhabitants of Sebelon are snowed in and are living on horses, mules and camels, the provision convey being unable to reach them. The authorities at Tlemcen sent out an expedition to rescue the sufferers, but this was also snowed in. The French-African soldiers, being used to the burning Africa sun, make poor headway battling against the storms and snow drifts of the severe winter they are now experiencing.

Ten United States postal detectives are continually bringing to light new frauds through the mails. Among recent cases is a swindler at Portland, Mich., who claimed to operate a farm, and advertised widely that he had a high grade wheat and choice blueberry shrubs for sale, and received many orders at fancy prices. The wheat was inferior and the blueberries ordinary sticks gathered in the woods. He kept the money sent him and in many cases failed to ship the goods. Thus has Delos Staples, better known as "blueberry Stables" at last come to grief and been sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment and five hundred dollars fine. Now if the authorities will investigate the thief of thieves that has for so long had its headquarters at Zanesville, Ohio, they will find more work of the same kind. Old Ben, or as it should be spelled Bane, has done a great deal of swindling from that quarter—Barnold.

An effective antidote for a charivari has been discovered by a young man in a neighboring town. He was married a few days ago and the boys prepared to give the bridal couple a charivari. They had their diabolical plans and paraphernalia ready for the occasion, when the gentleman got wind of the affair and posted a diphtheria sign on the house in which the ceremony was to take place. As a small boy outwitted the sign operated so effectively that no charivari was raised there that night.

Another trust killed. This time it is the cracker trust, known as the American Biscuit Company. A New Orleans court ruled that it had no rights in court, for the reason that its contracts were contrary to public policy and the terms of the Republican anti-trust law.

Payson, the "Farmer Editor," will succeed Hon. John J. Ingalls in the United States Senate, and Kansas will try the experiment of getting along for the next six years with practically one Senator.

AMERICAN tin weighing 30 pounds more per box than the English article, is now being sold for the same price in the Eastern states that is asked for the latter.

MISSOURI'S SOLONS.

The Week's Proceeding in the Missouri Legislature.

Our legislature is acting up to expectations. There seems to be an immense supply of activity and energy distributed around, and the charge of idleness will not lie.

But we are afraid that there is danger of too much being attempted. Experience has taught that comparatively few important bills can be passed in one session, and already as many measures have been introduced as could well be considered and dealt with in the brief time at disposal.

The best thing to do is to concentrate an effort on some of the measures of vital importance and let those bills alone which have a poor chance of passing. Where too much is attempted nothing is accomplished, but a reasonable program can be carried out to general satisfaction.

The question of calling a special session of the Legislature is being discussed freely, and such an event seems certain. The congressional appointment bill before Congress will give this State an additional Congressman, which will render it necessary to redistrict the State. This creates an emergency under the law, and unless lawmakers are willing to remain here at \$1 per day the Governor will be forced to call an extra session. Concerning this matter Gov. Francis said this evening that he anticipated the necessity of calling an extra session, but whether it would be at the conclusion of the present session or a year hence he was not prepared to say. By re-convening the Legislature as soon as it adjourned mileage will be saved.

The Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence disposed of thirty-eight bills in short order by adverse recommendation. There were forty bills referred to the committee. Of this number, one imposing imprisonment, as well as fine of \$50, on persons convicted of carrying concealed weapons, and another increasing the legal weight for a barrel of flour of 194 to 195 pounds, were alone recommended favorably.

Mr. Smith, of St. Louis, introduced a joint resolution asking the Governor not to employ special counsel for the State except upon recommendation of the Legislature. This may be a dig at Col. James O. Broadhead, of St. Louis, who is special counsel for the State in the case to recover some \$500,000 from the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad company.

The bill regarding the fences along public roads was reported favorably by the committee, with amendments. This will compel farmers to fence up all cultivated land along public roads, and in case they do not, they cannot recover damages for trespass. The matter to be voted on by any county at any general election.

Mr. Amelung of St. Louis has a social evil bill which he introduced in the house. It provides for licensing houses of ill repute and placing them under the charge of the board of health. It also provides for the confining of such places in certain quarters. It applies to St. Louis and Kansas City.

At the close of the thirteenth day of the last session 236 bills had been introduced in the house; at the close of the thirteenth day this session 236 bills had poured into the house. And the committee are doing good work. The jurisprudence committee killed fourteen bills on Thursday last, and the other committees are crowding this one. Thursday last was the thirteenth day of the general assembly, and the secretary of state says this assembly has used more stationery than was used by the thirty-fifth general assembly during the entire 140 days of its existence. He says that he had in a supply somewhat in excess of that for two years ago, but that it is now about exhausted.

There was a lively debate in the House over a free trade resolution introduced by Mr. Julian, of Kansas City, and for the third time the statement from the Kaw was outgrown and his resolution disposed of without taking a vote. Mr. Fogle finally came to the relief of those unfortunate individuals who were compelled to listen to a motion to refer the resolution to the Committee on Federal Relations, and the motion was adopted. Mr. Julian says that the fight is not over yet, and that he will make the Democrats out of camp and compel them to go on record either for or against free trade.

Some of the bills introduced in the House are important. Mr. Cowgill wants taxes assessed and collected the same year. He thinks such a law will save the State \$150,000 per year. Some of the House committees have been working hard, and as a result over fifty bills have been killed. The Judiciary and Criminal Jurisprudence committees in particular have been industrious. The Committee on Federal Relations reported favorable a joint and concurrent resolution for the election of United States Senators by a popular vote of the people.

The Criminal Jurisprudence Committee submitted an unfavorable report on Mr. Donnell's bill prohibiting the keeping of a dram shop in connection with a grocery. Mr. Tibb's bill prohibiting corporations from assessing employees for hospital funds was reported favorably, as was also a second bill making the first Monday in September a legal holiday, to be known as Labor Day. Mr. Donnell's bill prohibiting physicians who are not registered pharmacists from compounding prescriptions was favorably recommended.

Mr. Teasdale presented a petition from citizens of Platte county, asking for an amendment to the fish law to prevent seining.

Bills were introduced as follows: By Mr. Teasdale, to establish local boards of health. This bill passed two years ago, but was incorrectly revised. By Mr. Teasdale, requiring assignees to turn over unclaimed dividends to the state treasurer, there to be held until claimed. By Mr. Seabree, requiring decisions of the supreme court to be published in county and city newspapers. By Mr. Gray, placing express companies under control of the board of railroad commissioners, increasing the salary of the clerk of the board to \$2,000 per annum, requiring railroad companies doing business in this state to incorporate under the general laws. By Mr. Seabree to prohibit butchers

from trespassing by imposing a fine of not less than \$5 for entering enclosed land without permission of the owner. By Mr. Stone, amending the mechanic's lien law by providing an equitable responsibility between contractor and owner in regard to payment of workmen.

HOUSE. Mr. Martin offered a resolution for the appointment of a committee of five to ascertain the salaries received by officers under the fee system, to the end that legislation may be enacted to abolish the entire system. Adopted.

Bills were introduced as follows: By Mr. Hendrickson, amending the Australian election law by eliminating the two per cent representation necessary for parties to poll in order to nominate a state ticket.

By Mr. Dougherty, prohibiting prosecuting attorneys from dismissing criminal cases without consent of court. By Mr. Dougherty, fixing the maximum rate of interest that can be collected on mortgages secured by real estate at 6 per cent.

By Mr. Webb, amending the law relating to the commitment of boys to the reform school, providing that in case of conviction of felony the sentence shall be until the culprit is 21 years of age.

By Mr. Davidson, requiring school teachers in cities of ten thousand inhabitants and over, to be licensed.

By Mr. McCreary, requiring real estate to be annually assessed.

By Mr. Ferguson, providing for the redemption for real estate sold under mortgages held by foreign loan companies within three years.

By Mr. Crouch, making abstracts prima facie evidence in all courts.

By Mr. Adams, to prohibit the collection of usury by any legal process.

By Mr. Perkins, fixing the maximum salaries of circuit and county clerks at not exceeding \$3,000.

By Mr. McHenry, requiring railroads to pay full value of stock in liquidation of the company.

By Mr. Harrell, providing that in case of persons charged with crime testifying, they shall be treated as all other witnesses.

By Mr. Coppedge, for the pay of rejected witnesses in justice courts.

By Mr. Carter, prohibiting railroads from employing locomotive engineers who have not had three years' experience and can establish good moral characters.

By Mr. Davis, requiring insurance companies to publish annual statements in local papers.

By Mr. Julian, to prohibit agents from collecting commissions when they are paid salaries.

By Mr. Farris of Ray, requiring miners to be paid not less than once in ten days.

By Mr. Tibbs, requiring United States flags displayed from school houses and institutions supported by the state.

By Mr. Smith, amending the mechanics lien law so as to hold sewing machine and tractor responsible to workmen equal to owner of property.

GOOD PRICES FOR APPLES. The good prices realized for apples the past season has given quite an impetus to the fruit tree business and many farmers are preparing to plant new orchards this spring.

As we think there is no better investment than a good orchard well taken care of. There are several very important things to be observed in putting out an orchard. The first is the selection of the trees. We would recommend the selection of such varieties that have been fully tested, as it is too expensive to experiment with new and untried varieties. Never select more than a three year old tree, thirty and well shaped. Select a south slope, if possible for your orchard, place the ground under a foot deep and harvest well before planting. Set two rods apart, not more than two inches deeper than when standing in the nursery, trapping the ground as you would in setting a post, leaving a slight line around the body of loose ground, train the tops not less than four feet from the ground, never allow a fork as it will eventually ruin the tree. If the top is not high enough trim to a switch the first year and start top the second. 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